

Truly logical was our choice of I. William Schimmel for this first alumni profile. At 98, the School of Law's oldest living graduate has witnessed the Great Depression, two World Wars, 19 U.S. presidents, the advent of the automobile, the television and electric light as well as the birth of two children and seven grandchildren. ★ Born in New York City, Schimmel graduated from Baltimore City College and earned his legal degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1916. He was the second of eight children born to Hungarian immigrants who arrived in Baltimore in 1890. His father was a tailor on St. Paul and 25th Streets. Growing up, Bill ran errands for his father as well as delivering newspapers to help his family earn enough money to get by. ★ Throughout a career that spans over 65 years, he has been involved in the American, Maryland State and Baltimore City Bar Associations; the liquor, banking and steel industries; and the Maryland political scene as a lobbyist in Annapolis. A March 1958 article about him in the Baltimore Beacon portrays a man well liked and widely admired. ★ "Bill's motto is the one adopted by the J. E. A. Excelsior Club when he served as adviser to the group: 'Be Ye Kind One To Another.' All who have had the pleasure and opportunity to come in contact with I. William Schimmel need not be told that he fully lives up to that philosophy, since he has learned the art of finding contentment and satisfaction in life, and sharing that formula with others." ★ I found an equally warm, friendly and amazingly energetic Bill Schimmel when I visited with him this winter and asked about his life, his career and his family.

FIRST AMONG ALUMNI

SHARE WITH US ONE OF YOUR MORE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES.

Joining the Army in 1917 during World War I was a memorable event. A doctor who examined me had found a heart murmur so he sent me to Hopkins for an examination before I was drafted. Those doctors examined me and found the murmur, but I was drafted anyway and put into the infantry. I ended up at Camp Meade with the 72nd Infantry from Presidio, California. We were scheduled to go to Europe in a hurry.

The first lieutenant in my group discovered that I was a lawyer who had just graduated. He was a lawyer as well, so he pulled me aside and told me that I was not going to

ended on the 11th and I was out on the 23rd.

The depression was also quite memorable. The few shares of stock I owned went down to little or nothing. What really struck me was the constant need for cash. Everyone needed cash, yet there wasn't any. There were soup kitchens everywhere. The practice of law was at a standstill because debts were so hard to collect. Money was tough but we lived through it.

What saved the country was the advent of the Second World War in the 1930s. Industry picked up and things, financially speaking, became more normal. They quickly returned to abnormal during the war.

BILL SC

Europe with the 72nd Infantry. Instead, he sent me to Camp Lee, Virginia, into Officer's Training School. When the war had ended, I didn't need a commission, so I was able to get out of military life quickly. I believe the war

DESCRIBE THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW WHEN YOU ATTENDED.

You're going back to 1916, when I was clerking with a man who was a master in chancery. He acted on certain cases that were assigned him by the Circuit Court of Baltimore. While I was clerking for him, I attended the law school at Lombard and



cents proposition. Today, corporate practice controls a great deal of the legal profession and there seems to be less and less of what I call the "personal touch." Today, you have to give your Social Security number and bank account, making business the motivating factor. I am glad I experienced both the personal end of the profession and the corporate end. In the latter years of my career I was associated with a number of the big law firms in the city.

WHAT'S THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION FOR WHICH THE LEGAL PROFESSION IS RESPONSIBLE?

The legal profession is responsible for the orderly operation of most every business in the

YOU MUST HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER LAWYERS. COULD YOU GIVE ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES?

First, study hard. Know your subject and the laws pertaining to it. If you look out for the best interests of your clients, you will find that they will take care of you. I have seen too many lawyers who are interested first in taking care of themselves, rather than the interests of their client. I am very fond of the old-fashioned way when a lawyer was interested in the welfare of his or her client first.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WITH YOUR TIME SINCE YOU'VE BEEN RETIRED?

It's difficult trying to fill an entire day when you are my age. I used to have quite a bit of company and luncheon engagements. I also used to play handball. I grew out of some of these strenuous exercises and the people with whom I used to associate have passed away. It's a little difficult finding companions when you're in your nineties, so I play with a lot of youngsters. They are very congenial and don't seem to mind having a friend who has graduated from the ranks.

BY DAVID CARRERA

HIMMEL '16

Greene Streets, which was just walking distance from my office. Ward B. Coe was my mentor. He was teaching at the University of Maryland as well. It was like any other university at the time, except there was no campus, so it was strictly business.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION HAS EVOLVED PROFOUNDLY. HOW DO YOU SEE THIS EVOLUTION AS A PRACTICING ATTORNEY FOR ALMOST 65 YEARS?

The practice of law *has* changed immensely. When I was practicing it was more of a personal business. You knew your client and you were very much interested in his welfare. It wasn't always a dollars and

country. If it weren't for laws and the lawyers who uphold them, human beings would not have any rights. It would be a matter of the might being right. Our legal system is a big part of why we live in one of the best countries in the world.